



Chiltern Film Society

AGM report, May 2011

Annual General Meeting, 4th May 2011

The AGM took place at the Elgiva immediately before the showing of "*Tamara Drewe*". It was attended by 17 members and committee, with apologies received from Molly Lockhart, Patricia Cherrill, Tony Renwick and Jonna & Frank Hytten. A short summary of our meeting is given below:

- **Treasurer's Report**

- Andy Burrows presented the final accounts for 2009/10 (attached). These showed a further improvement over recent years with a positive balance carried into 2010/11. The accounts for FY2009/10 were approved by the meeting.
- Andy also presented the provisional accounts for 2010/ (attached). These show a continued positive result based on the larger membership.
- During a short discussion around the finances, it was noted that the society uses a small proportion of the subscription for its administration and marketing costs with the remainder of the subscription being paid on to The Elgiva to show the films. We were conscious of having had to raise the subscription substantially in the last two years and would like to hold this stable for a while if possible.

- **Secretary's report**

- Derek Goddard commented that average film ratings were around the normal level at 69% average for the season so far; "*The Concert*" had been the unexpected success with an all-time record rating of 97% and "*Anything for Her*" had also scored 90%; however, we were disappointed to have two films scoring down around the 40% level with "*What Just Happened*" having the lowest rating of 36%. We were also surprised that "*Certified Copy*" scored as low as 39% given its strong performance at Cannes and positive reviews.
- Our membership continued above the 100 level this year, including some part season joiners, with our year end membership of 110 being the highest ever achieved by the society.
- We have tried marketing more widely this year, with leaflets going to a wider range of shops and retail outlets as well as new online ventures: thanks to a member's efforts we now have a CFS Facebook group and have used several local online and email news sources including both the Chiltern Voice and Amersham & Chesham email newsletter. We record how our new members heard of us and were encouraged to find that these new efforts had resulted in several applications.
- We have continued email newsletters this season to the 86% of our members who have given us their email addresses and are also occasionally ensuring we get entries in the local electronic newsletters. We cannot afford to send out newsletters by mail but will continue to ensure that we make them available at film nights for members who choose not to use email.
- We continue to put all film ratings and comments onto our website so that any members who miss the following film can see ratings easily; [we were pleased that a straw poll at the AGM revealed that this facility is used by a reasonable proportion of those present].
- Molly Lockhart has now had to withdraw from her committee role and leave the Society for personal reasons; we are all very sad to see her go and give thanks for the extensive work she has done for the Society over many years.

- **Election of Officers and Committee**

- We have a vacancy on the committee as our constitution allows for a committee of up to 10 and we have nine committee members willing to continue if re-elected.
- Jon Wallis appealed for additional members to step forward to join the committee. While our current committee are all happy to continue if re-elected, we remain aware that we have all served for some considerable time and we would prefer to have an influx of new ideas. The role is not onerous as there are normally two meetings a year, to select the programme and to arrange publicity. No candidate committee members stepped forward at the AGM and so as the meeting confirmed the re-election of the existing members the new committee is as follows:

§ Jon Wallis	Chair
§ Derek Goddard	Secretary
§ Andy Burrows	Treasurer
§ Sigrid Poole	Membership
§ Amanda Craig	
§ Ethne Effendowicz	
§ Patricia Cherrill	
§ Tony Renwick	
§ Pete Wallis	

- It was noted that the committee would seek to co-opt a further member to bring its total membership up to 10.
- A member proposed a vote of thanks to the committee for its work which was supported by the meeting and gratefully acknowledged by the committee.

- **Members Forum:** the following topics were discussed:

- The committee had been concerned that film ratings were becoming more extreme and several very negative comments had been received during the year. The meeting was not worried about this and felt that it reflected a healthy state of affairs, showing that we were being reasonably adventurous in our film selections. The committee will continue the current policy of seeking to complement the types of film selected by The Elgiva and bringing to the area films that we would otherwise not be able to see.
- We discussed how the committee chose its film long list. This largely came from: member requests, the BFI Viewing Session reports, film listings and reviews in newspapers, and the monthly Sight & Sound magazine which reviews every film released in the UK.
- We specifically discussed whether we should consider classic films (several of which were being re-released in new prints) and this was supported by the meeting.
- One member asked for us to include the date of production for each film on the Society's programme. We used to do this and will do so again.
- The use of email was discussed. While members would appreciate a reminder of the next film night by email (at least one had forgotten one evening by mistake and a reminder would have avoided this!), most did not want the next Programme Notes ahead of time. Accordingly, the committee will try to send out a reminder to consider a link to the Programme Notes on the website.

The AGM closed at 7.40pm. Jon Wallis thanked all those who had attended and looked forward to seeing all members back at the first night of next season, in September 2011. As our AGM is earlier than usual, we have not yet agreed next season's dates with The Elgiva. We will be sending out a newsletter to current members with email and will send all current members next year's Programme leaflet when it becomes available during the summer.

Jon Wallis, Chairman.

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